

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DLOS-09 EB-08 AID-05
/101 W

-----068230 022344Z /66

R 021911Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1146
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14456

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, TU, GR, GW
SUBJECT: FRG-TURKISH RELATIONS

REFS: (A) ATHENS 7793; (B) BONN 14042; (C) BONN 14057;
(D) ANKARA 6378; (E) ANKARA 6404

SUMMARY: FRG FONOFF TOLD TURKISH CHARGE IN BONN THAT
FONMIN GENSCHER'S RECENT TRIP TO GREECE DOES NOT SIGNIFY
ANY LESSENING OF FRG'S CLOSE TIES WITH TURKEY. FONOFF
SAYS REPORTS OF EC INITIATIVE TO PURSUE US TO LIFT ARMS
TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS ON TURKEY ARE FALSE AND VIEWS
SULZBERGER STORY OF BRANDT MEDIATING EFFORT AS HIS OWN
FABRICATION. FRG CABINET WILL MEET TO DECIDE ON NEW
GUARANTEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DM 1.2 BILLION ARMS AID
PACKAGE TO TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

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1. ACCORDING TO THE FONOFF (BENSCH), FONMIN GENSCHER'S
VISIT TO GREECE (AUGUST 17-19--REPORTED REFS A, B AND
C) WAS A SUCCESS. THE TRIP WAS HIGHLY PUBLICIZED IN
BOTH GREECE AND THE FRG AND, NATURALLY, WAS A SUBJECT OF
GREAT INTEREST IN ANKARA. ALTHOUGH THE FRG AMBASSADOR
BRIEFED HIS TURKISH HOSTS IN DETAIL ON THE VISIT, FONOFF

ANALYSIS WAS THAT SOME REASSURANCE TO TURKEY WAS IN ORDER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE VISIT SIGNIFIED NO DEPARTURE FROM THE FRG'S SO-CALLED "BALANCED POLICY" BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

2. THE TURKISH CHARGE WAS CALLED INTO THE FONOFF ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 27 AND GIVEN EXACTLY THAT MESSAGE. IN ADDITION, HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE GREEK SIDE HAD PRESSURED THE FRG DELEGATION TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE MAKARIOS SUCCESSION PROBLEM AND TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. IN BOTH CASES THE FRG DELEGATION REFUSED. THE TURKISH CHARGE WAS ASKED TO REPORT THE FRG HOPE THAT THIS REFUSAL WAS FULLY APPRECIATED IN ANKARA. THAT POSITION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN, HOWEVER, IF THE TURKISH SIDE HELD TO ITS OUTSPOKEN POSITION OF NOT RECOGNIZING THE LEGITIMACY OF MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR.

3. THE FONOFF BELIEVES THIS MESSAGE TO THE TURKISH CHARGE MAY HAVE HAD SOME EFFECT, BENSCH NOTED. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, TURKISH CYPRIOT STATEMENTS SEEMED TO CHANGE IN TONE. THE TURKS STILL LEVY CONDITIONS, BUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE SUCCESSION QUESTION SEEMS TO HAVE DIMINISHED, BENSCH SAID.

4. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, BENSCH MADE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-- BRANDT MEDIATION EFFORT: FONOFF HAS SEEN NO INDICATION THAT BRANDT IS PLANNING OR IS EVEN INTERESTED IN PLAYING A ROLE IN MEDIATING THE CYPRUS DISPUTE. IN BENSCH'S VIEW, THE SULZBERGER ARTICLE REFLECTED ONLY THE AUTHOR'S VIEWS.

-- TURKISH VIEWS ON NEGOTIATIONS: ANKARA SEEMS TO BE IN NO HURRY FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE AEGEAN OR CYPRUS QUESTIONS. DEVELOPMENTS IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS MAKE IT APPEAR THAT A NEW LOS AGREEMENT WILL BE MORE FAVORABLE TO THE TURKISH VIEW THAN THE GENEVA CONVENTION, THEREFORE, THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY HOLDING OFF. ON CYPRUS, THE TURKS BELIEVE THAT ANY MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 10 ELECTIONS.

-- EC PRESSURE ON THE US: REPORTS IN TURKISH NEWSPAPERS THAT THE EC IS READYING AN INITIATIVE TO PERSUADE THE US TO MODIFY ITS POSITION ON ARMS TRANSFERS TO TURKEY IS "WITHOUT FOUNDATION." THE FRG AMBASSADOR DID

TELL THE TURKS THAT GENSCHER HAD REFUSED GREEK REQUESTS
TO PLACE POLITICAL STRINGS ON ECONOMIC AID TO TURKEY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14456

NEVERTHELESS, THE FRG VIEWS THE IMF AS THE PREFERRED
FORUM FOR MAJOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

-- FRG MILITARY AID TO TURKEY: BENSCH OUTLINED THE
PROPOSED ARMS PACKAGE IN SAME TERMS AS REPORTED REF E.
HOWEVER, GERMAN SUPPLIERS WERE SEEKING ADDITION FRG
GUARANTEES IN VIEW OF TURKEY'S PRECARIOUS BALANCE OF
PAYMENTS POSITION. THE GERMAN FIRMS HAVE ASKED,
INSTEAD OF THE USUAL HERMES GUARANTEES, FOR AN FRG
COMMITMENT TO BUY THE ORDERED ARMS IF THE TURKISH
GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE UNABLE TO MAKE PAYMENTS BEFORE DELIVERY. IN THIS

WAY THEY COULD RECOVER THEIR FULL COSTS. BENSCH SAID
THAT THE FMOD AND THE FONOFF WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT
THIS ARRANGEMENT WHEN IT IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE FRG
CABINET FOR APPROVAL EARLY IN SEPTEMBER.
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5. COMMENT: WE GATHER THAT ANKARA HAS NOW BEEN GIVEN A DETAILED BRIEFING ON GENSCHER'S TALKS IN ATHENS. THIS, TOGETHER WITH GERMAN ASSURANCES CONVEYED TO TURKISH CHARGE, SEEMS TO CONFIRM THAT BONN STILL PLACES VERY HIGH VALUE ON ITS RELATIONS TO TURKEY, EVEN IF THIS MEANS A SLIGHT TURKISH TILT IN ITS "BALANCED POLICY."
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